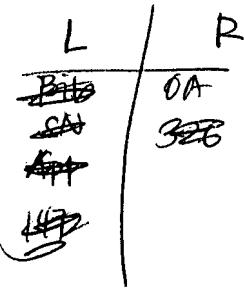


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IN THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A foil-type switching element comprising:

a first carrier foil and a second carrier foil arranged at a certain distance from each other by means of a spacer, said spacer comprising at least one recess defining an active area of the switching element, and

at least two electrodes arranged in the active area of the switching element between said first and second carrier foils in such a way that, in response to a pressure acting on the active area of the switching element, the first and second carrier foils are pressed together against reaction force of the elastic carrier foils and an electrical contact is established between the at least two electrodes,

said foil-type switching element further comprising a layer of dielectric material, said dielectric material being applied onto said first carrier foil between the first carrier foil and an electrode arranged on said first carrier foil, said layer of dielectric material covering at least a region of the first carrier foil which is delimited by a generally outer periphery of the electrode arranged on said first carrier foil and wherein said electrode arranged on said first carrier foil is printed onto said layer of dielectric material.

9. (Currently Amended) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein a layer of dielectric material is applied onto said second carrier foil between the second carrier foil and an electrode arranged on said second carrier foil and wherein said electrode arranged on said second carrier foil is printed onto said layer of dielectric material.

10. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil in substantially an entire area of said active area.

11. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil in an entire area of said active area and extends laterally beyond said active area.

12. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil on a complete surface of said carrier foil.

13. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein said layer of dielectric material is printed onto said carrier foil.

14. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of said layer of dielectric material varies over the active area.

15. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 9, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil in substantially an entire area of said active area.

16. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 9, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil in an entire area of said active area and extends laterally beyond said active area.

17. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 9, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil on a complete surface of said carrier foil.

18. (Currently Amended) A foil-type switching element comprising:

a first carrier foil and a second carrier foil arranged at a certain distance from each other by means of a spacer, said spacer comprising at least one opening defining an active area of the switching element, and

at least two electrodes arranged in the active area of the switching element between said first and second carrier foils in such a way that, in response to a pressure acting on the active area of the switching element, the first and second carrier foils are pressed together against reaction force of the elastic carrier foils and an electrical contact is established between the at least two electrodes, wherein at least one of said electrodes is arranged on said first carrier foil,

said foil-type switching element further comprising a layer of dielectric material, said dielectric material being applied onto said first carrier foil between the first carrier foil and said electrode arranged on said first carrier foil, said layer of dielectric material covering at least a region of the first carrier foil which is delimited by a generally outer periphery of the electrode arranged on said first carrier foil and wherein said electrode arranged on said first carrier foil is printed onto said layer of dielectric material.

19. (Currently Amended) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said electrodes is arranged on said first carrier foil and wherein a layer of dielectric material is applied onto said second carrier foil between the second carrier foil and an electrode arranged on said second carrier foil and wherein said electrode arranged on said first carrier foil is printed onto said layer of dielectric material.

20. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil in substantially an entire area of said active area.

21. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil in an entire area of said active area and extends laterally beyond said active area.

22. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the first carrier foil on a complete surface of said carrier foil.

23. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 19, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil in substantially an entire area of said active area.

24. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 19, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil in an entire area of said active area and extends laterally beyond said active area.

25. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 19, wherein said layer of dielectric material is applied on the second carrier foil on a complete surface of said carrier foil.

26. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein said layer of dielectric material is printed onto said carrier foil.

27. (Previously Presented) The foil-type switching element according to claim 18, wherein a thickness of said layer of dielectric material varies over the active area.